

#### Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson  
Rep. Cindy Noe  
Sen. Connie Lawson  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Rebecca Bickel  
Tracie Wells  
James L. Greeson  
Teresa Voors  
Tony Bennett  
Mitch Roob  
Judith A. Monroe  
Cathy Boggs



## COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

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Authority: IC 12-17.2-3.3

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** September 15, 2009  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., 156A  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 1

**Members Present:** Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson; Rep. Cindy Noe; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rebecca Bickel; Tracie Wells; Brenda Summers for Teresa Voors; Brian Carnes for Judith A. Monroe; Melanie Brizzi for Cathy Boggs.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Connie Lawson; James L. Greeson; Tony Bennett; Mitch Roob.

Rep. Summers called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

### Family and Social Services (FSSA) Updates

Melanie Brizzi, Director, Bureau of Child Care (BCC), provided a handout slide presentation.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Brizzi discussed the Child Care and Development Fund program (CCDF), including the waiting list, funding, eligibility requirements, effect of the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) funding, and status of licensed child care providers. She explained that the CCDF waiting list has increased to approximately 10,000 children, likely related to increased need for child care funding assistance due to economic pressures on parents, and to the receipt of the ARRA funding which led to an increased number of CCDF applications. She also noted the loss of licensed child care providers since August of 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment 1.

Ms. Brizzi discussed the Paths to Quality program (PTQ), including the background and implementation status of the program. She stated that PTQ was fully implemented across Indiana in January, 2009 and provided information concerning participation rates among various child care provider types, PTQ quality level requirements, annual rating visits, and mentoring of participating child care providers.

In response to questions from Rep. Summers, Rep. Noe, and Sen. Sipes, Ms. Brizzi noted that PTQ: (a) is a voluntary program; (b) seems to reduce child care provider staff turnover rates; and (c) rating visits are scheduled to ensure that individuals performing the visit are able to observe the staff and children while they're active. She acknowledged that the percentage of child care ministries participating in PTQ is much lower than the percentage of licensed child care homes and centers.

Ms. Brizzi explained that Purdue University has entered into an agreement with BCC to perform a validity study for the PTQ standards (which has been completed) and to continue to evaluate the PTQ for 5 years. She stated that Purdue's evaluation will include determinations about whether: (a) PTQ, and each quality level of PTQ, actually reflect increased quality of child care; and (b) PTQ's consumer education methods are effective. Ms. Brizzi informed the members that a professional marketing firm is being used to advise the BCC concerning regional PTQ marketing to providers and parents.

In response to questions from Rep. Noe, Ms. Wells, Sen. Sipes, and Ms. Bickel, Ms. Brizzi stated that:

- (a) because BCC knows who the child care providers are, PTQ marketing to providers can be done more directly than marketing can be done to unknown parents;
- (b) PTQ marketing is done differently in the various regions of Indiana, based on recommendations from the marketing firm about what type of marketing will be most effective;
- (c) the supply of providers that have achieved the different PTQ levels is currently sufficient to meet parent demand;
- (d) BCC hopes to use some ARRA funds to expand PTQ to more unlicensed providers;
- (e) PTQ rating visits occur annually, but PTQ mentoring is ongoing;
- (f) a provider's PTQ level may change based on mentor documentation, provider request, or rating visits; (f) the PTQ level achieved by a provider is available to the public through various means, including signs on provider premises and the Carefinder Internet site;
- (g) Ms. Brizzi will provide to the members information concerning capacity of the various types of licensed child care providers in Indiana; and
- (h) providers are actively participating in PTQ, which is a change from BCC's previous attempts to improve quality through certification.

In response to questions from Sen. Sipes, Ms. Brizzi explained that she would be reluctant to provide unsolicited notice to parents that a certain provider is not a PTQ participant. She noted some reasons for her reluctance are that: (a) PTQ is a voluntary program that is supplemental to licensing requirements; (b) there are some good licensed providers that encounter barriers to participation in PTQ and that may be negatively impacted by such an approach; and (c) some barriers to participation, such as building structure requirements, nutritional standards, and staff/child ratios, may be addressed by providers in the future with outside assistance (i.e., United Way's Success by Six program) thereby removing the barriers for those providers.

There was general discussion concerning United Way's involvement with child care providers.

Ms. Brizzi introduced Dianna Wallace, Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC). Ms. Wallace provided a handout<sup>3</sup> and noted that the IAEYC's TEACH program has been providing financial assistance for education of child care staff for ten years. She noted that the turnover rate for child care staff who participate in educational opportunities is only 2%, as opposed to 28% generally. She

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<sup>3</sup>Attachment 2.

described the various programs of the IAEYC.

Ms. Brizzi introduced Marsha Thompson, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR). Ms. Thompson provided a handout<sup>4</sup> and described IACCRR's service delivery areas, functions including involvement in PTQ, and other IACCRR programs. In response to questions from Rep. Summers, Ms. Wells, and Sen. Sipes, Ms. Thompson discussed: (a) Spanish/English translators used by IACCRR; (b) on-line provider referrals through Carefinder and the IACCRR agency Internet sites; (c) the inclusion of PTQ information on the Internet sites concerning providers; and (d) effectiveness of education of parents concerning PTQ before and after child care is obtained.

Ms. Thompson introduced Patty Ryan of IACCRR who provided a handout<sup>5</sup> concerning data related to: (a) PTQ participation by providers; (b) PTQ's effect on, and feedback from, providers and parents; (c) distribution of brochures in various places for parent education regarding PTQ; and (d) funding assistance available to providers participating in PTQ.

In response to a question from Ms. Bickel concerning rural child care availability, Ms. Brizzi stated she would provide to the members the number of licensed child care providers in each Indiana county.

Barbara Field, Riviera Children's Center, Greenwood, Indiana, discussed the effect of PTQ on her child care center, which has achieved PTQ level three. Ms. Field stated that her staff now possesses improved understanding regarding child care and that TEACH has assisted in obtaining otherwise unaffordable education for her staff. She noted that parents and children are aware of the center's goal of PTQ level four achievement and that they hold the center accountable to achieving the goal.

Vicki Glenn, Kimberly's Playmates (child care home), Lafayette, Indiana, discussed her use of TEACH for education of her staff, the PTQ mentoring resource, and her pursuit of accreditation for her child care home. She conveyed her belief that PTQ will eventually replace licensing as the quality standard for child care. She explained that she was at first overwhelmed by the requirements of PTQ, but that she has learned how to implement the requirements and has been assisted by her mentors. She stated that knowledge of PTQ is spreading through parent word of mouth.

In response to questions from Rep. Noe, Ms. Glenn stated that PTQ is different from licensing requirements in that PTQ addresses not only building structural requirements, but also staff training, interactions with children, and play methods of education of children. She emphasized the benefit of the PTQ mentoring assistance and noted that redirection and correction of children in her care has decreased due to the children's lack of boredom and increased sense of responsibility through their participation in activities that result from her home's PTQ participation.

Ms. Ryan stated that she will provide to the members information that she has received concerning reasons that providers do not participate in PTQ.

Judy Ford, Caring Heart Child Care Ministry, Hobart, Indiana, provided a handout<sup>6</sup> and stated that her child care ministry has achieved PTQ level two. Ms. Ford described her personal and child care staff use of TEACH assistance and the positive effect of PTQ on her child care staff and program. She noted financial barriers to providers meeting PTQ requirements and described some possible barriers specific to child care ministries, including use of child care ministry funds for other church ministries, constitutional concerns, and concerns about parents' rights resulting from some PTQ requirements.

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<sup>4</sup>Attachment 3.

<sup>5</sup>Attachment 4.

<sup>6</sup>Attachment 5.

Barb Newton, First Presbyterian Preschool, Columbus, Indiana, representing the Child Care Ministry Advisory Committee, provided a handout<sup>7</sup> and discussed the Advisory Committee's proposals for legislation, including child/staff ratios, supervision requirements, and age and educational requirements. Ms. Newton explained that her child care ministry does not participate in PTQ because it cannot meet the nutritional requirement in a reasonable manner. Ms. Brizzi noted that BCC is evaluating such reasons for nonparticipation to determine how to balance reasonable individual provider needs with the PTQ requirements.

#### **Update from Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)**

Judith Ganser, M.D., Medical Director, Health and Human Services, ISDH, provided a handout folder<sup>8</sup> and provided information concerning the Sunny Start program. She referred to the various written materials available to agencies and parents and noted the ISDH's work with various agencies to coordinate services for young children. Dr. Ganser explained that the ISDH has a limited budget for the Sunny Start program, and that the ISDH is working to make all Sunny Start materials and information available on the ISDH Internet site. She emphasized that she welcomes any additional questions from the members.

#### **Additional Items for 2009 Interim Committee Consideration**

Rep. Summers requested that members contact Ms. Naughton during the week of September 14, 2009, with any additional items for the Committee's consideration during the 2009 Interim.

Rep. Summers set two additional Committee meetings to be held on:

- (1) Monday, October 5, 2009, at 11:00 a.m.
- (2) Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be the final meeting for the 2009 Interim. The Committee will consider its final report and any proposed legislation during this meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Summers adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

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<sup>7</sup>Attachment 6.

<sup>8</sup>Attachment 7.